

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the restriction requirement mailed March 12, 2009, Applicant hereby elects Group 1, directed toward a method for mounting a retaining ring on a rotating starter shaft of an electric starter drive assembly, on which claims 1-3 read, for continued examination. Non-elected claims 4-10 are hereby canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

New Claims

Dependent claims 11-12 are newly added by way of this reply. Applicant asserts that no new matter is added by way of new claims 11-12, as support for the new claims may be found, for example, at least in paragraphs [0028] and [0031] and in Figure 4 of the Publication of the present application.

Further, Applicant asserts that new claims 11-12 recite features of the elected group of claims. Specifically, new claim 11 is directed toward a method for mounting a retaining ring on a rotating starter shaft, as claim 11 recites further features of the protrusions of the speed reducer (originally claimed in dependent claim 2). New claim 12 recites a relationship between a diameter of the shaft and a diameter of the retaining ring, which is directed toward a method of mounting the retaining ring, because the diameter of the ring facilitates the mounting without elastic deformation of the ring.

Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the new claims recite features of the elected group of claims. Favorable consideration of the newly added claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number [17170/012001]).

Dated: April 9, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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